

OD / POISONINGS / INGESTIONS

State of New Jersey EMD Guidecards Version 8/98

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Is patient alert?
 Is patient breathing normally?
 Do you have any idea what the patient took?
 Is the patient acting normally for him or her? If not, what is different?
 If the patient took medications, were they prescription medications?
 What medication did they take? How much?
 If it was not medication, what type of substance did the patient take?
 Is the patient having difficulty swallowing?
 How old is the patient?
 Has the patient used street or non-prescription drugs?
 _ If yes, with alcohol?
 _ If cocaine or crack, is the patient complaining of any pain?
 Where?
 Is the patient violent? Do they have access to a weapon?
 Has the patient vomited? If yes, describe.

SIMULTANEOUS ALS/BLS

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Unconscious/not breathing normally.
 Any overdose of medication with altered level of consciousness.
 Ingestion of household cleaners, antifreeze, solvents, methanol, cyanide, insecticides.
 Difficulty swallowing.
 Alcohol intoxication, patient can not be aroused.
 Combined alcohol and drug overdose.
 Cocaine/crack with chest pain.

BLS DISPATCH

Intentional/accidental, with medications.
 3rd party report, caller not with patient.
 Reported OD, patient denies taking medications or unknown if medications/substance taken.
 Drugs without critical symptoms.
 Known alcohol intoxication without other drugs, can be aroused.

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Pre-Arrival Instructions

Keep patient in area/house, if safe.
Get container of substance taken if at the scene.
Don't force coffee or place patient in shower.
Nothing by mouth, including Ipecac, unless advised by poison control.
If the patient's condition changes, call me back.

Prompts

If unconscious, go to UNCONSCIOUS/BREATHING NORMALLY AIRWAY CONTROL
If unconscious, NOT breathing normally, go to CPR for appropriate age group.
Consider Poison Control Center (1-800-764-7661, or one button transfer)
Is law enforcement needed?

Short Report

Age
Sex
Specific location
Chief complaint
Pertinent related symptoms
Medical/Surgical history, if any
Other agencies responding
Any dangers to responding units